

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been amended.

Claims 1-8 remain in the application.

No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,820,057 to Decarolis et al. The Examiner has rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,820,057 to Decarolis et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,551,847 to Caldwell. The Examiner has rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,820,057 to Decarolis et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,182,916 to Lin.

Claim 1, as amended, is substantially identical to Claim 1 recited in U.S. Pat. No. 7,024,790 to Qilian, which was granted over the prior art references cited by the Examiner. The patent to Qilian was filed on June 11, 2004, and is therefore not a valid prior art reference in respect of the instant application, which claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/459,528, filed April 1, 2003. Since Claim 1 of the patent to Qilian allowed over the prior art references cited by the Examiner, it follows that Claim 1 of the instant application is allowable over the prior art references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 1 based upon 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn, and Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable.

Since Claims 2-8 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1, and include further limitations, these Claims are submitted to be patentable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Since the application, as amended, appears to be in condition for allowance, a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

While Applicant's attorney has made a sincere effort to properly define Applicant's invention and to distinguish the same from the prior art, should the Examiner deem that other language would be more appropriate, it is requested that a telephone interview be had with Applicant's attorney in a sincere effort to expedite the prosecution of the application.